

4K88-4

PENINSULA/ALEUTIANS HERRING SAC-ROE FISHERY
MANAGEMENT PLAN 1989

By:

Arnie Shaul and Len Schwarz

Regional Information Report¹ No. 4K88-4

Alaska Department of Fish and Game
Division of Commercial Fisheries
211 Mission Road
Kodiak, Alaska 99615

February 1989

¹ The Regional Information Report Series was established in 1987 to provide an information access system for all unpublished divisional reports. The reports frequently serve diverse ad hoc informational purposes or archive basic uninterrupted data. To accommodate timely reporting of recently collected information, reports in this series may contain preliminary data; this information may be subsequently finalized and published in the formal literature. Consequently, these reports should not be cited without prior approval of the author or the Division of Commercial Fisheries.

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ADF&G FIELD OFFICES

COLD BAY
(Opens May 1)

Box 50
Cold Bay, AK 99571
Phone: 532-2419

SAND POINT
(Open Yearly)

Box 129
Sand Point, AK 99661
Phone: 383-2066

PORT MOLLER
(Opens May 15)

Phone: 987-2216

AREA DESCRIPTION

The Alaska Peninsula/Aleutian Islands Management Area includes all waters of the Alaska Peninsula west of Kupreanof Point on the south side of the Peninsula and Cape Menshikof on the north side and includes all waters of the Aleutian Islands.

REGISTRATION REQUIREMENT

Tenders and Processors: Each tender operator and buyer must register in person at an Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) office in either Cold Bay, Sand Point or Port Moller prior to buying or tendering herring. Catch reporting instructions will be explained during registration. (See Regulation 5 AAC 27.662. BUYER AND TENDER REPORTING REQUIREMENTS).

If proper monitoring of the Area M sac-roe fisheries is not possible because of a breakdown in the catch reporting procedures, stringent in-season measures will be put into effect to insure that excessive harvests do not occur. Measures may include frequent closures to assess fish ticket information followed by adequately noticed and well publicized reopenings. Failure to adhere to the reporting requirements specified on the tender registration form will result in citations being issued.

Fishing Vessels: There is no area registration requirement for fishing vessels for the 1989 sac-roe season. Fishermen must give specific catch locations to buyers, so that it can be recorded on fish tickets. (See statistical charts attached.)

HARVEST STRATEGY

Statewide policy dictates that harvest levels may range from 0% to 20% of the available spawning biomass, depending upon the health of the stocks being exploited.

GUIDELINE HARVEST LEVELS

Preseason harvest guidelines have been compiled for known Alaska Peninsula spawning stocks based on the best available information of stock biomass (Table 1). The exact size of each stock may not be known, however aerial surveys estimates, age class composition, and fisheries performance are information which allows estimates of stock biomass. Preseason harvest guidelines will be used as catch quotas unless inseason stock status indicators suggest extreme variations in anticipated stock abundance.

If extreme variations occur, harvests will be adjusted up or down depending on stock abundance.

Portions of the area that have not produced harvests in the past will be open for exploration. No harvest guidelines have been established for these areas, however harvest will be kept small until an estimate of stock biomass can be obtained. ADF&G monitoring of exploratory commercial activity will be accomplished by requiring industry to report catches and by ADF&G aerial surveys.

Harvest Allocation

As described in the 1989 Commercial Herring Regulations:

5 AAC 27.660. HARVEST STRATEGY (b) The Department shall manage the King Cove, Pavlof and Sand Point Districts so that 75 percent of the estimated guideline harvest (See Table 1) is taken during the sac-roe season (April 15 through July 15) and 25 percent is taken during the food and bait season (July 16 through February 28). If the 75 percent is not taken during the sac-roe season, then the amount of herring not taken may be allowed to be taken during the food and bait season. The Department shall adjust the guideline harvest level based on herring biomass assessments conducted during the sac-roe season.

(NOTE: If the sac-roe harvest is exceeded, then the excess harvest will be deducted from the food and bait harvest. Also, the above harvest strategy does not apply to the North Peninsula.

Sac-Roe Season and Fishing Periods

The entire Alaska Peninsula Area (North Peninsula, South Peninsula, and Aleutian Islands) is open to commercial sac-roe herring fishing from April 15 through July 15, with the exception of the Port Moller District (see statistical chart). In the Port Moller District, herring fishing will not be allowed until May 30. Delaying the fishery is an attempt to shift fishing pressure from the earlier arriving smaller stock to the later arriving more abundant stock. The fishery may open before May 30 if a large biomass is spotted before this date. Length of periods will be announced by emergency order and will depend upon factors such as amount of fishing effort and herring biomass. ADF&G will fly surveys in Port Moller prior to May 30, however industry spotters are encouraged to report any large sightings.

Legal Gear

Purse Seine Gear: During the sac-roe season (April 15 through July 15), no purse seine may be more than 100 fathoms long or more than 1,000 meshes deep.

Gillnet Gear: During the sac-roe season (April 15 through July 15), the aggregate length of herring gillnets used per permit holder may not exceed 150 fathoms.

Emergency Announcements

Fishery openings and closures will be announced from the Cold Bay, Sand Point, and Port Moller field offices. In addition, announcements affecting the Canoe Bay Secion will be announced from the Canoe Bay tent camp. Announcements will be made over local AM radio stations (KSDP, KDLG), 4125 SSB, and VHF frequencies.

Table 1. Alaska Peninsula/Aleutian Islands Management Area Herring Sac-Roe Harvest Guideline Levels, 1989 in Tons^{a/}

SOUTH PENINSULA SAC-ROE HARVEST BAIT HARVEST TOTAL HARVEST

Location:

Sand Point District			
Stepovak Bay Section	19	6	25
Balboa Bay Section	15	5	20
Beaver Bay Section	23	7	30

Pavlof District			
Pavlof Bay Section	75	25	100
Canoe Bay Section	131	44	175
General Section (Volcano Bay)	23	7	30

King Cove District			
Belkofski Section	23	7	30
Cold Bay Section	68	22	90
Deer Passage Section	23	7	30

Guideline Harvest Totals ^{b/}	400	130	530
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NORTH PENINSULA

Location:

Port Moller District ^{c/}	
Herendeen Bay Section	75
Inner Moller Bay Section	75
Outer Moller Bay/	75
Bear River Section	

Guideline Harvest Totals	225
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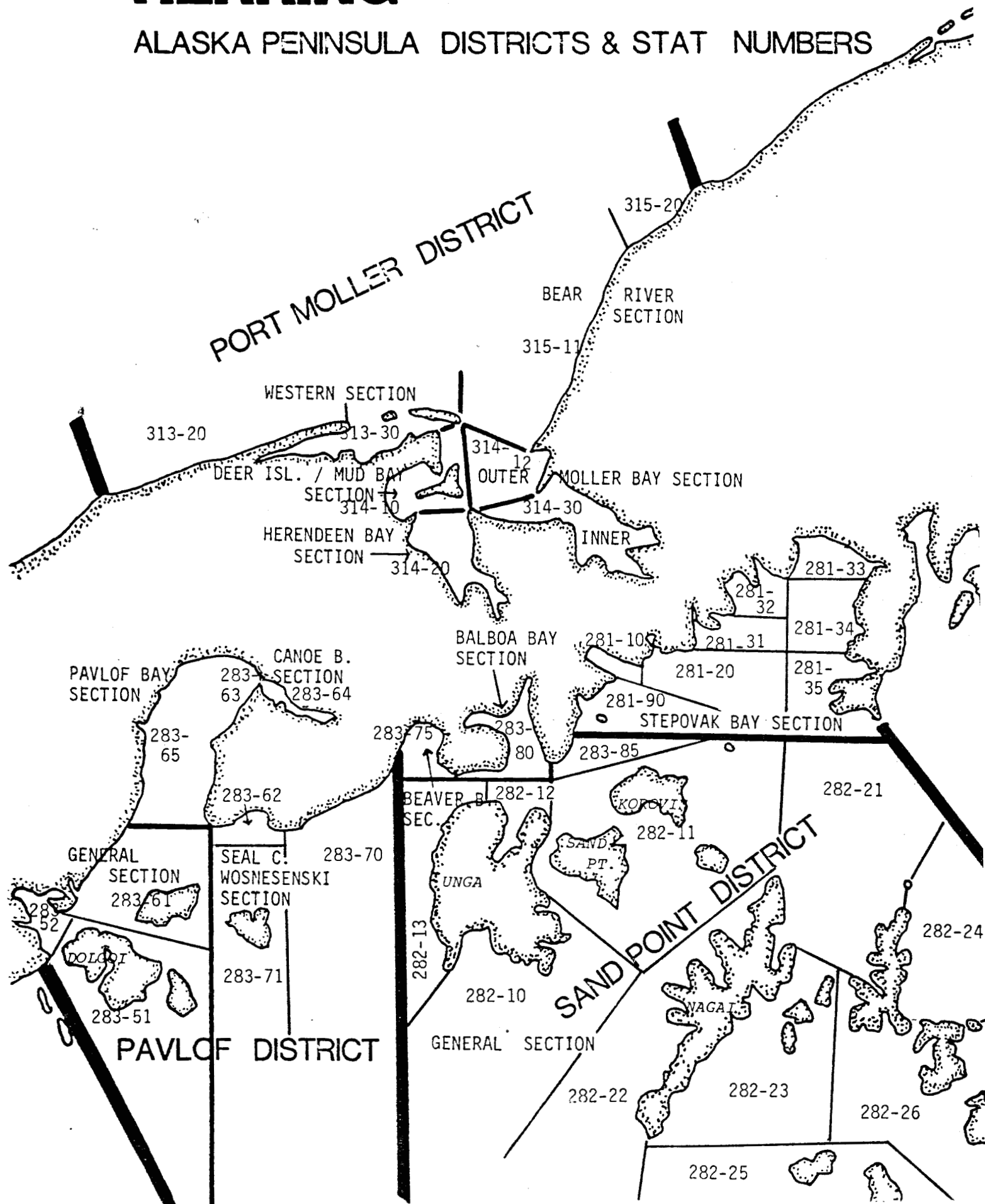
^{a/}Aleutian Island District is open for exploration, no deliveries have ever occurred.

^{b/}Does not include harvests that may occur in sections open for exploration.

^{c/}The harvest guideline in the Moller District was lowered from the 1987 level of 500-1,000 tons to 225 tons because fleet performance aerial surveys, and age class composition all suggest that herring abundance is low. The actual harvest in 1987 was 294 tons.

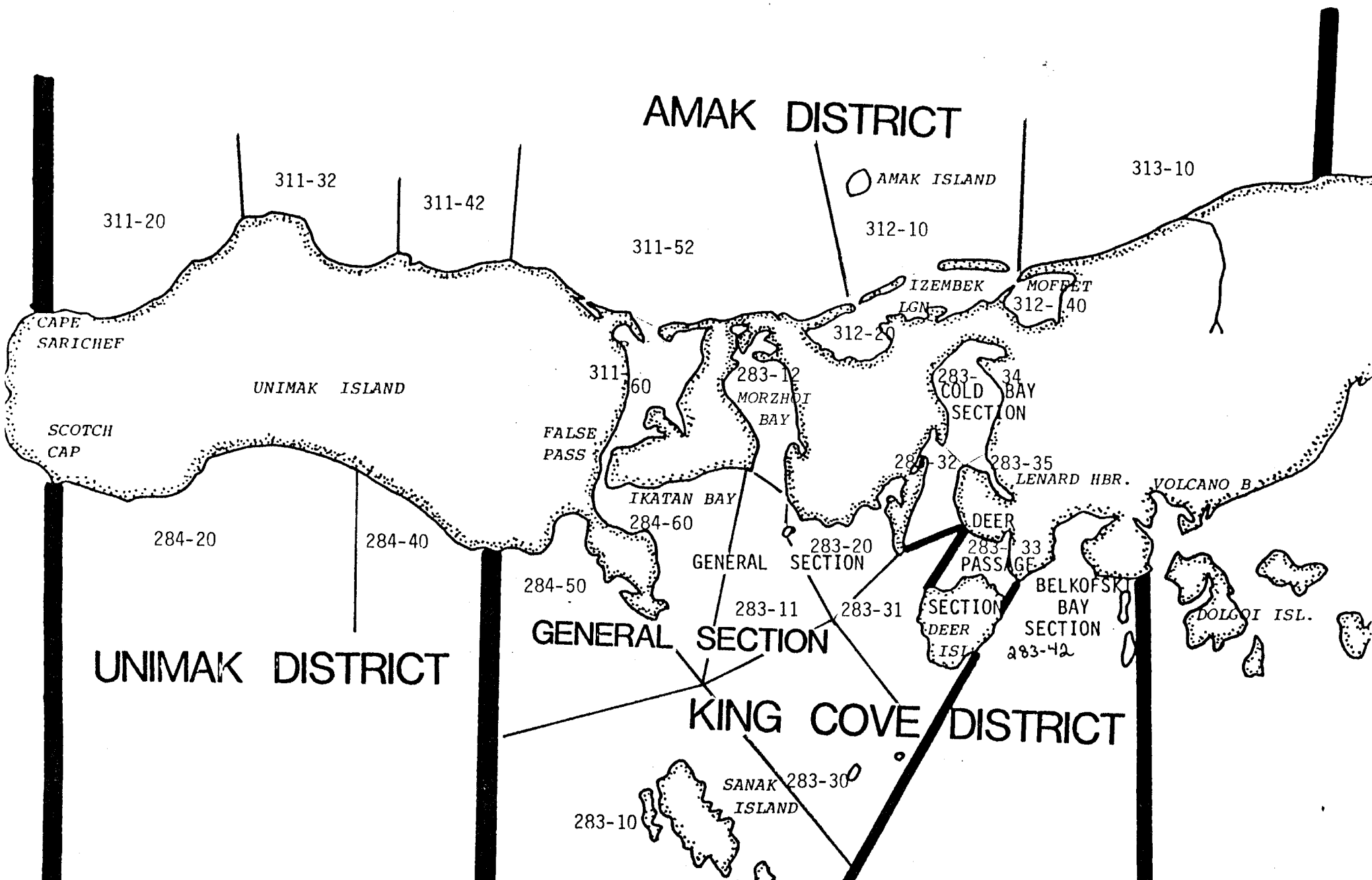
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ALASKA PENINSULA DISTRICTS & STAT NUMBERS



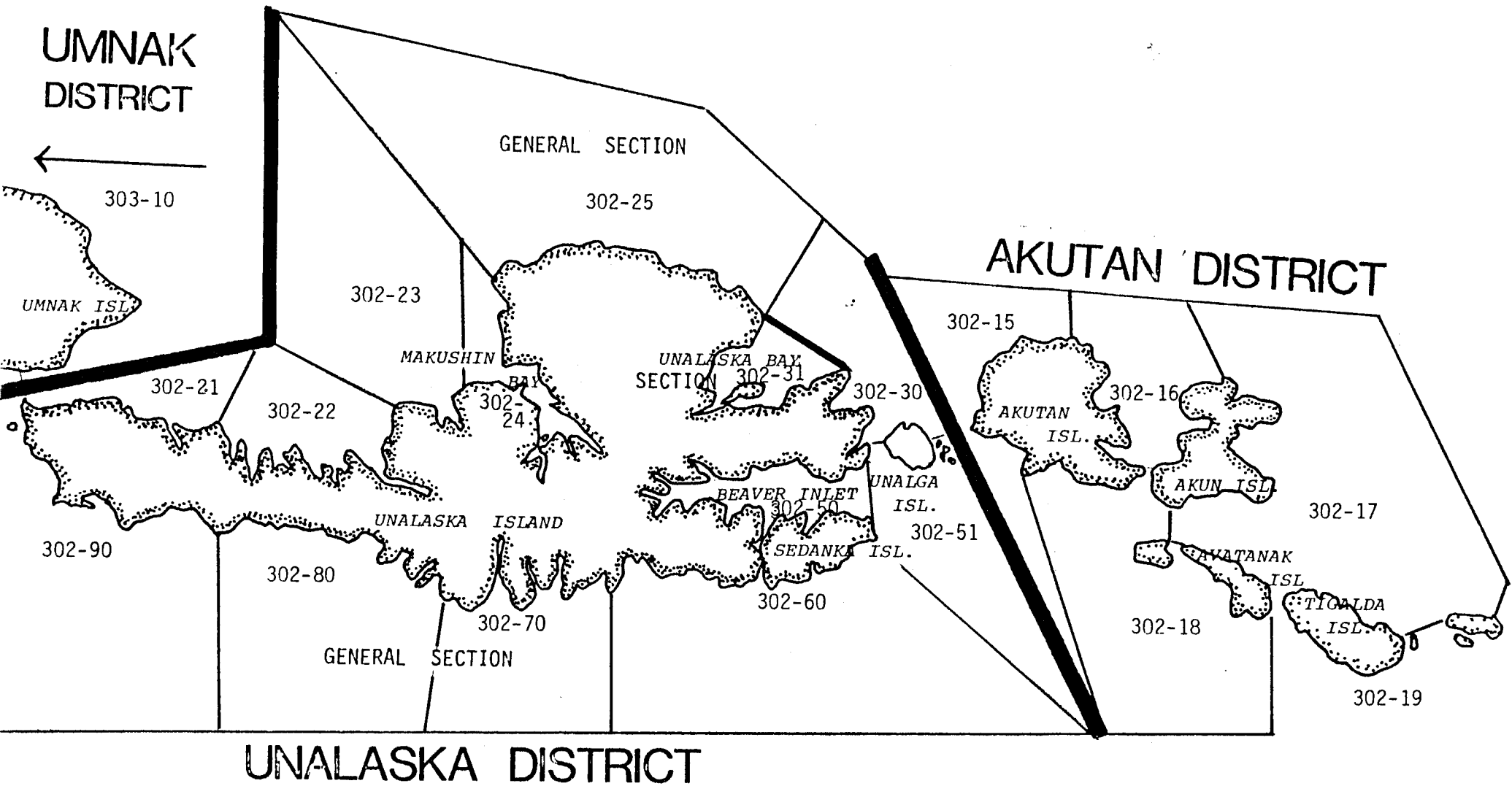
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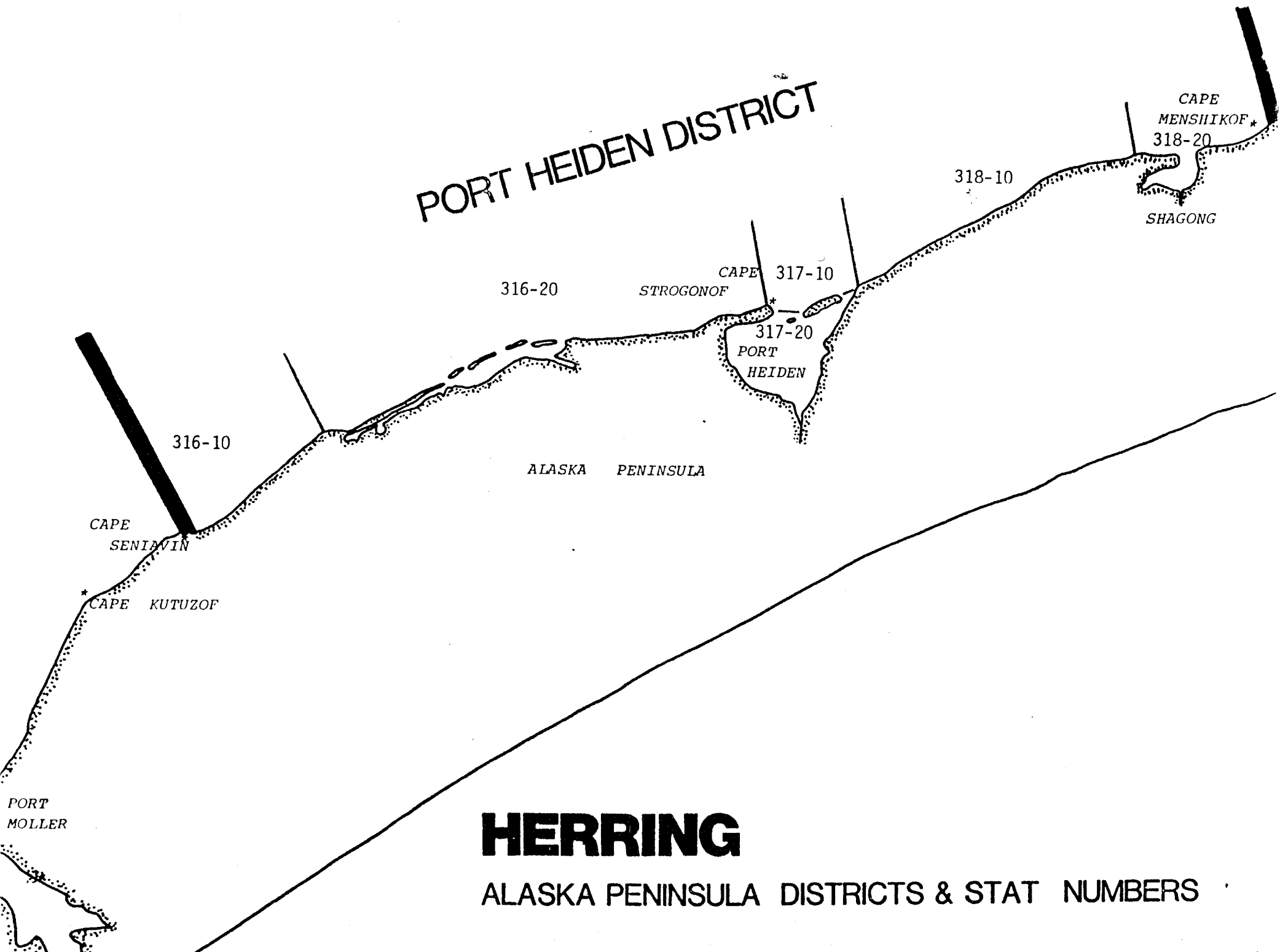
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